

# A Polk County Farmer Gives his Opinion of Western Canada.



CROOKSTON, MINN., Sept. 28th, 1893.

To the Commissioner of Dominion Lands,

Winnipeg, Manitoba.

SIR:—I have lived nine years in Polk County, Minnesota, and on account of poor crops, low prices, high rate of taxation and interest, have not made a success of farming, although I have done fully as well or better, than many of my neighbors; and having heard of the natural advantages offered for mixed farming in Western Canada, through the colonization office of Munson & McCrea in Crookston, I determined to inspect the Canadian Northwest, not only for myself, but for many of my fellow farmers as well, who are anxious to make a change, if they could be sure of bettering their condition by doing so.

Accordingly, I left Crookston on the 25th of August, arrived that afternoon in Winnipeg—a fine city of some 33,000 inhabitants, substantially built and with all modern improvements—and through the courtesy of yourself and L. A. Hamilton, C. P. R. Land Commissioner, was given transportation over the Canadian Pacific railway to Prince Albert.

After remaining in Winnipeg one day, I started west, passing through Portage la Prairie, Brandon and a number of other fine towns. The crops as far as I could see were first-class. In the afternoon I reached Indian Head, where I stopped over for a day. I found that a thriving little town, business good and money plenty, farmers in the best of spirits, claiming their wheat would turn out over thirty bushels to the acre, and to judge from the appearance of the crop I think they were quite correct in their estimate. Coarse grain and vegetables were enough to gladden the heart of any farmer.

Next afternoon I started west again and in a short time reached Regina. That I thought to be a nice town of some 5,000 inhabitants, surrounded by a good farming country, and to judge by the number of fine brick buildings in course of erection must be in a flourishing condition. Here I changed cars, and next morning reached Prince Albert, a lively town, beautifully situated in a fine valley on the north branch of the Saskatchewan River, with a population of 1200. That town contains a large number of mills, churches and schools, which speaks well for the public spirit of its inhabitants. After spending an hour or more

looking over the town, I met by chance a Mr. S. W. Vanluvan, an uncle of my own, who had lived nine years in that part of the Northwest. He invited me to go home with him, some 14 miles east of Prince Albert, which proposition I gladly accepted. I found my uncle was nicely situated near the South Saskatchewan, having 320 acres of land, a good mill capable of grinding a large quantity of wheat per day, a fine stock of horses, cattle, sheep and hogs, and best of all, out of debt, he having went to that country a few years since, comparatively a poor man. Mr. Vanluvan and myself spent a number of days examining the Birch Hill, Carrot River and Stony Creek countries, and found them all first-class for mixed farming. Soil good, plenty of hay and water, with an abundance of timber for building, seeding and fuel, crops of all kinds were as good as I have ever seen. Cattle very large and in fine condition. We also went to see a portion of country directly east of Prince Albert and east of the Saskatchewan River. There I found a beautiful country, fine soil, timber and other natural advantages, through which runs the Pevlun River into the Saskatchewan. That valley has no settlers and offers great inducements to parties wishing to start a colony, as the land is all ready for settlement and the choice locations remain to be taken.

Now in conclusion, I must say that I was delighted with the country. I have bought a half section of railroad land running down to the Saskatchewan. Shall settle up my business here as quickly as possible and intend to take my family and effects to that country in less than thirty days, and then I will take a homestead on the Pevlun River not far from Saskatchewan.

And to my neighbors and friends, who are wasting the best part of their lives here, I advise you to go and see that country, which nature has done much for, which this year will turn out from 25 to 30 bushels of wheat to the acre, where beef cattle are worth from 3 to 4 cents per pound, where your roads and bridges are all built for you, where you have no taxes but for school purposes, and where the government believes that the success of the nation depends on the prosperity of her farmers.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

WELLINGTON CAMPBELL.